

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Independent Claim 1 now requires that the coating of the porous coating of the substrate comprises an adhesion promoter and one or more inorganic components.

The Office states on page 7, lines 5-7 of the November 14, 2006 Office Action that the Penth prior art (U.S. 6,309,545) “does not disclose the use of adhesion promoters to bond the coating to the fibrous substrate.” Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 is patentable over Penth at least because Penth does not disclose a coating having the adhesion promoter of the present claims. Applicants draw the Office’s attention to new dependent Claims 39 and 40 which state that the adhesion promoter is an organofunctional silane or at least one of a Markush group of particular functional silanes.

Present Claim 1 further recites that the polymeric fiber is at least one of a group of synthetic polymeric fibers. Applicants submit that Penth does not disclose a nonwoven material made from the synthetic fibers of the present claims. In fact, at best, any disclosure of Penth that relates to non-woven materials in fleece form is in regard to natural fibers such as cotton (column 9, lines 23-26) or metallic fleece (column 15, lines 1-3). Applicants submit that a non-woven made from synthetic fibers such as those of the Markush group of present Claim 1 are substantially different from a metallic fleece or a fleece of natural fibers.

Moreover, Guiver (U.S. 2002/0062737) is specific to glassy polymers such as polysulfone (see the Abstract of Guiver) and not the fibers of the Markush group of fibers recited in present Claim 1.

Applicants thank Examiner Cole for the helpful and courteous discussion of December 12, 2006. During the discussion, the Examiner indicated that the prior art of record may not disclose or suggest the coated nonwoven polymeric fiber material now recited in the claims.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the mailing of a Notice of Allowance to acknowledge the patentability of the presently claimed subject matter.

The claims stand further rejected under obviousness-type double patenting. The Office rejected the present claims as obvious in view of co-pending application “‘0/487,145.” The citation provided in the Office Action does not represent a presently pending application. Applicants assume that either 09/487,145 or 10/487,145 was intended. However, the claims of 09/487,145 and 10/487,145 do not correspond in any way to the presently-claimed invention (i.e., 10/487,145 relates to an imaging device whereas 09/487,145 relates to a satellite broadcasting converter). Applicants thus submit that the rejection in view of “‘0/487,145” should be withdrawn.

The Office also rejected the claims under obviousness-type double patenting in view of application “19/572,274.” Applicants submit that like the above-mentioned co-pending application, the 19/572,274 application must include a typographical error. Applicants request further clarification.

The Office further rejected the claims under obviousness-type double patenting in view of co-pending applications 10/504,144; 10/524,143; 10/524,669; and 10/519,097. Applicants submit that none of the claims of the aforementioned co-pending applications are drawn to a sheet which is required to have the adhesion promoter of the presently claimed invention. At least on this ground, Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is not obvious under the meaning of the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting and the rejections should be withdrawn.

The Office further rejected the claims in view of co-pending applications 10/575,268; 10/575,759; and 10/575,734. Applicants submit that the present claims which require the presence of an adhesion promoter in a coating applied to a nonwoven polymeric fiber are not

necessarily obvious in view of the claims of the aforementioned co-pending applications.

Applicants submit that the rejections should be withdrawn for any of the aforementioned co-pending applications that recite a sheet but do not require the inclusion of an adhesion promoter or on the other hand do not require the particular non-woven polymeric fibers of the present claims.

Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record and respectfully request the mailing of a Notice of Allowance acknowledge the patentability of the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

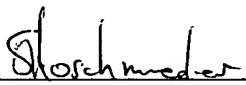
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